



TraceCore XML and EPCglobal

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TraceTracker Innovation



Original proposed agenda

- 5 min overview and conclusions from TraceTracker (this pres)
- XML Code examples, a couple of use cases and typical Q&A
- Abstract model
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- Next steps
 - Minutes
 - Documentation
 - Presentations on meetings?

Revisiting TraceCore XML (TCX)

Q: How to get maximum adoption of TCX after the “Trace” project ends?

- Low uptake rate so far
- Comments from early adopters indicate that the format does not match their needs
- No commitment guaranteed from TCX group to manage the format after Trace – it will die unless picked up by an organization with resources

What is "The Best" solution?

Possible strategy:

"Reinvent",
"build on",
"support",
"align with"
or "_____"?

- Should we create the "best" TCX for
 - The WP5 group?
 - The TRACE project?
 - EU?
 - The food and beverage industry?
 - The world?

"- The nice thing about standards is that there are so many of them to choose from" (Andrew S. Tanenbaum)

Organizational issues

TRACE

- Is a project that will end after 2009
- Possible extension projects are uncertain
- Is primarily known within the Norwegian fish industry

OASIS

- Functional alignment with UBL 2.0 and ultimately using the not-for-profit OASIS consortium as a future “home” for TCX, is possible
- While OASIS could offer such a home and tools for managing the TCX format, the real work would still have to be done by someone willing to spend time on this
- OASIS covers a lot of different and *generic* information standards
- Rich framework for EDI but nothing directly targeted at traceability

EPCglobal

- Enormous traction and represents the #1 most important technology framework within SCM today
- Offers much more than just an XML format for the exchange and capture of traceability information. Provides a complete vision and network model for how the supply chain works and what the needs are
- Commercially driven organization with massive support and investment in time and money from supply chain members and vendors
- In EPCglobal, there are full time employees serving as staff and support to all the different Working Groups
- Focus is global and supply chain oriented

Universal Business Language (UBL) vs EPCIS

UBL 2.0

- UBL is a family of different and *universal* formats usable for a large range of different business scenarios
- Seemingly most in use by the Public Sector according to OASIS web site
- Fragments from different of these formats may be used to model XML nodes in a TraceCore document (done already)

EPCIS

- The XML format is designed for the movements of goods in a supply chain and can be used for both data exchange and capture
- It has well defined extension mechanisms through schemas and user vocabularies and a (soon to be ratified) Core Business Vocabulary
- Provides clear separation of master data and transactional data

Neither EPCIS, TCX nor UBL supports *internal batch transformations* today. Different initiatives within the EPC community to address this.

Registering a company in EPCglobal

- Comparable to registering a domain name on the Internet
- To some extent, you can use some services without registration
- On a local network, you need no registration – all protocols and frameworks are still open and free to use
- If you want to publish data (i.e. www) globally or communicate with the global community (i.e. Internet e-mail) you must be registered in DNS
- Within the EPCglobal environment, the EPC Manager Number is serving a similar purpose as the DNS record for a company

Conclusions

- TraceTracker is convinced that the best solution for TCX and the future users of TCX is to “align the format with” EPCIS
- To what extent and in what way may be discussed – there are a couple of alternatives
 - The best is probably to think of TCX as an extension on top of EPCIS. By using the well defined extension mechanisms, 100% support for the core EPCIS interfaces is guaranteed
 - The EPCIS foundation in TCX will then benefit users of TCX in a number of ways:
 - Growing support in terms of ERP vendors, integration products etc
 - Huge and rapidly growing user community
 - Easier communication with business partners
 - Documentation provided by an existing community
 - Reuse EPCIS for ~90% of the needs, let TCX add the remaining needs



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